

SFW



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 3180.0341

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHIYUKI KAMATA ET AL.) Group Art Unit: 1773
Application No.: 10/702,439) Examiner: K. Bernatz
Filed: November 7, 2003) Confirmation No.: 9408
For: MAGNETIC RECORDING)
MEDIUM HAVING A PATTERNED)
SOFT MAGNETIC LAYER)

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the Issue Fee, and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified under § 1.17(p) and a certification as specified under § 1.97(e). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

02/27/2006 SZENDIE1 00000108 10702439

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Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a Notification of Reasons for Refusal issued by the Japanese Patent Office, dated January 24, 2006, in a counterpart Japanese application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of the Notification of Reasons for Refusal issued by the Japanese Patent Office citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. In addition, English-language abstracts of the listed non-English documents are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

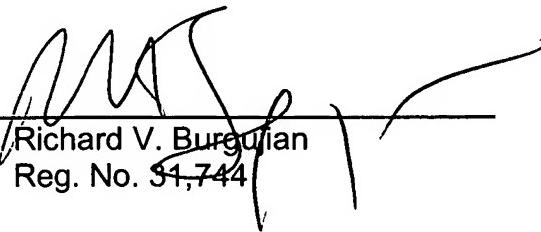
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

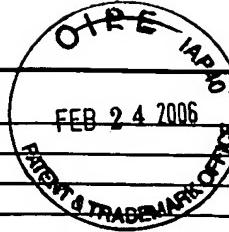
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 2/27/06

By:


Richard V. Burgulian
Reg. No. 34,744

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	1	Application Number	10/702,439
				Filing Date	November 7, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Yoshiyuki Kamata
				Art Unit	1773
				Examiner Name	K. Bematz
				Attorney Docket Number	3180.0341



U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-			

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 10-149539	6/2/98	Sony Corp.		Abstract
		JP 6-19632	1/28/94	International Business Machine Corp.		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			Translation ⁸
		Notification of Reasons for Refusal issued by the Japanese Patent Office dated January 24, 2006, for Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326057, and English-language translation thereof.			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.